

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W

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R 101417Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6261

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, MILI, NI, US

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT TO WEST POINT BY TEAM FROM NIGERIAN
DEFENSE ACADEMY

1. FIVE MAN TEAM OF ARMY OFFICERS FROM NIGERIAN DEFENSE ACADEMY (KADUNA) WISH TO VISIT WEST POINT SEPTEMBER 7-13, 1976. MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA) DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTS EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN "OBTAINING SPEEDY CLEARANCE" FROM USG.

2. WE HAVE INFORMED DIRECTOR MEA'S AMERICA DEPARTMENT THAT WE WELCOME VISIT AND WILL ASCERTAIN WHETHER PROPOSED VISIT DATES ARE CONVENIENT FOR WEST POINT OFFICIALS. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT NEW ACADEMIC YEAR WILL HAVE JUST BEGUN, DIRECTOR INDICATED FMG WOULD UNDERSTAND SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY PROPOSE ALTERNATE DATES. HE EXPRESSED HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. WE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT NIGERIAN EMBASSY DEFENSE ADVISER SUBMIT VISIT REQUEST THROUGH ESTABLISHED DEPARTMENT OF ARMY CHANNELS AT PENTAGON, A POINT DATT HAD MADE TO NIGERIAN MINISTRY DEFENSE OFFICIALS WHEN THEY BROACHED SUBJECT OF VISIT LATE LAST MONTH.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN MEETING NIGERIAN REQUEST AND ENSURING A SUCCESSFUL VISIT. NOT ONLY WILL EARLY AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO PRESS FMG TO APPROVE VISITS OF USG OFFICIALS BUT
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THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR LONG RANGE INFLUENCE ON NIGERIAN MILITARY.

FMG IS MOVING TO RELY MORE HEAVILY ON INDIGENOUS INSTITUTIONS
FOR TRAINING OF ITS OFFICERS AND NIGERIAN TEAM WILL DOUBTLESS
DETERMINE WHETHER ANY OF WEST POINT EXPERIENCE IS APPLICABLE
TO NIGERIAN DEFENSE ACADEMY. EXPOSURE TO MILITARY ACADEMY WILL
INCREASE NIGERIAN ADMIRATION FOR AMERICAN MILITARY INSTITUTIONS
AND TRAINING AND MIGHT LAY GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE EXCHANGES OF
IDEAS AND PERSONNEL BETWEEN WEST POINT AND NIGERIA'S MOST
PRESTIGIOUS MILITARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.
CAHILL

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